

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Rights Bureau

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. Applicant/Contact name and address: Montana Board of Land Commissioners for Glacier High School, Kalispell School District 5, 233 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue E, Kalispell MT 59901
2. Type of action: Application for Provisional Permit 76LJ 30050378
3. Water source name: Groundwater well
4. Location affected by project: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, Township 29N, Range 22W, Flathead County
5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:  
The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311 MCA are met.

The Applicant proposes to divert water from a well with a total depth of 396 feet and static level of 136.9 below top of casing (btoc) by means of a 50 hp submersible pump, from April 20 through October 8 at a maximum rate of 450 GPM up to 91.84 AF, from a point in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, Township 29N, Range 22W, Flathead County for irrigation use from April 20 through October 8 annually. Irrigation will be on 43.46 acres of turf for sports fields and landscaping. The place of use is Glacier High School, generally located N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, Township 29N, Range 22W, Flathead County.

6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:  
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)

Montana Natural Heritage Program  
United State Fish and Wildlife Wetland Mapper  
Natural Resources and Conservation Service Soil Maps

**Part II. Environmental Review**

1. **Environmental Impact Checklist:**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

## **WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Water quantity** - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: N/A - groundwater

**Water quality** - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

Determination: N/A - groundwater

**Groundwater** - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Determination: Availability of water in source and effects to surrounding wells as well as depletions to surface water sources were addressed in the previous DNRC application process for the underlying rights on this change.

**DIVERSION WORKS** - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

Determination: The proposed means of diversion is a well constructed by Liberty Drilling and Pump Co. (MT license #WWC-458) completed in September 2006. Total depth is 396 feet with a static level of 136.9 feet. Perforation intervals are 320 – 330 feet and 339 – 342 feet with ¼ x 1-inch slots and 349 – 369 feet with ¼ x 6-inch slots.

## **UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Endangered and threatened species** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any “species of special concern,” or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or “species of special concern.”

Determination: The Montana Natural Heritage Program was contacted to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any “species of special concern”, that could be impacted by the proposed project. They identified the following animal and plant species that are threatened, or have special status, that are located regionally: Great Blue Heron, Black Tern, Bald Eagle, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Horned Grebe, and Westsloope Cutthroat. No immediate impact.

**Wetlands** - Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

*Determination:* The proposed place of use is not within the boundaries of wetlands mapped by the national wetlands inventory program.

**Ponds** - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

*Determination:* No ponds; no impacts.

**GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

*Determination:* Most of the soils in this area are Kalispell loam that is well drained with a moderately high to high transmittal capacity. Grass turf and blacktop has replaced this piece of old irrigation field. Saline seep is not a concern in this area.

**VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS** - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

*Determination:* Grounds will be kept healthy on a regular basis. No impact.

**AIR QUALITY** - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

*Determination:* N/A

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project if it is on State or Federal Lands. If it is not on State or Federal Lands simply state NA-project not located on State or Federal Lands.*

*Determination:* Section 36 belongs to School Trust Land. An EIS was written for this section in consideration for integration with the Kalispell City County Master Plan. Historical and archeological site impacts have already been studied.

**DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY** - *Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.*

*Determination:* N/A

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - *Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.*

*Determination:* Developed/planned with the Kalispell City County Master Plan as a resource.

**ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES** - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.*

*Determination:* No impact.

**HUMAN HEALTH** - *Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.*

*Determination:* No impact.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - *Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.*

Yes\_\_\_ NoXX If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

*Determination:* No impact.

**OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** - *For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.*

*Impacts on:*

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? N/A
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? More revenue for education
- (c) Existing land uses? Kalispell Master Plan followed; no impact.
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? Raise employment
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? Add housing per Master Plan
- (f) Demands for government services? No impact
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? Increase commercial activity
- (h) Utilities? Expansion as needed
- (i) Transportation? Increased traffic to area
- (j) Safety? Safety concerns addressed in State EIS
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None

**2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:**

Secondary Impacts None

Cumulative Impacts None

3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:***  
None
4. ***Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:***

***PART III. Conclusion***

1. ***Preferred Alternative*** As proposed
2. ***Comments and Responses*** None
3. ***Finding:***  
*Yes*\_\_\_ *No***XX** *Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?*

*If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:*

*Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:*

*Name:* Kathy Olsen

*Title:* Water Resource Specialist

*Date:* September 2, 2011